Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka; and

(e) the extent to which the Indian Peace Keeping Force has been able to keep peace there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) The initial strength of the IPKF was about 10,000 personnel.

(b) The present strength of IPKF is approximately 50,000.

(c) As on 24 February, 1988, 5582.89 tons of relief material had been sent to Sri Lanka. The value of these material is not readily available.

(d) The expenditure, direct and indirect, consists of a large number of items and the exact figures are not readily available.

(e) The IPKF presence in Sri Lanka and its operations have to be seen in the context of their mission which is to implement the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement and ensure the security and safety of all communities in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The IPKF have succeeded in establishing near normal conditions in the North and its operations to fulfil their mission in other areas are continuing.

Production of Atomic Bomb by India

1050. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists at Science Congress held in Pune recently have made a demand that India should not produce Atom Bomb; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Government have seen press reports attributed to some scientists, but no official records of statements made at the Sicence Congress held at Pune are available.

(b) Government have made it clear on many occasions that our atomic energy programme is aimed at peaceful purposes.

Electronic goods manufactured in India

1051. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the field of electronics;

(b) the instruments manufacturing in India at present;

(c) whether many western countries are buyers of Indian electronic goods; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the electronic instruments that have a prospective market in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The production of electronics during 1987 is estimated at Rs. 4800 crores compared to Rs. 3460 crores during 1986, thus achieving a growth rate of about 33%.

(b) Instruments being manufactured in India at present include a large variety of Test and Measuring Instruments, Analytical Instruments, Electro-Medical Instruments, Agri-Electronics Instruments, Mining Electronics Instruments, Nuclear Instruments, Geoscientific Instruments, Textile Instruments, Industrial and Automation Equipment, Process Control Equipment, Power Electronics Equipment, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Many Western countries including EEC countries and USA have shown interest in electronic instruments for import from India. Items like Oscilloscopes, Power supplies, amplifiers etc. are being exported to these countries. In addition to these, there are many test and measuring instruments for use in the laboratories, schools and colleges and small establishments for which possibilities are being explored through exhibitions and trade promotion programmes.

Benefits to the Muster Roll Employees

1052. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATNAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Muster Roll Employees in various Government Departments who are on continuous service of those departments for more than three years;

(b) whether such employees are not given any benefit of increment in salary, leave benefits, medical facilities, leave travel concession etc. when such employees remain in Government service continuously for years together;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when Government propose to treat them at par with regular employees after continuous service of six months/one year in respect of payment of wages and other aforesaid benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Muster roll employees are employees engaged on daily wage basis.

(b) and (c) Since persons engaged on daily wage basis are not appointed against regular posts, they are not entitled to the benefit of leave, LTC, increment and medical facilities.

(d) According to the instructions issued by Government, if persons initially engaged for work of casual/seasonal/intermittant nature are in service of the Government for a minimum period of two years, with 240 days or more service (206 days or more in offices observing five day week) during each year, they could be considered for regular appointment against Group D posts provided they fulfil other conditions such as age, educational qualifications etc. and if suitable vacancies are available. While considering them for regular appointment they are given concession in upper age limit to the extent of the period spent by them as daily wage workers.

Formation of rain clouds in the northern Arabian sea

1053. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rain clouds are not being formed in the northern Arabian sea areas near the Saurashtra coast due to a massive flaring of natural gas round the clock in various offshore and on shore oil fields in this region;

(b) what is the total calory of heat generated every day in the skies over coastal Gujarat and Saurashtra due to flaring away of natural gas in the oil fields of this region;

(c) whether the successive failures of monsoons in this region is due to the above reasons; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?